Editor Farmer's Advocate.

From Markham.

Dear Sir,—You will please send the Advocate to the following eight names for one year, and charge the same to me. I have not got any money from those parties, but I will run the risk of their paying me when I see them, more particularly after they read the paper for a few months. I feel, Mr. Weld, that your paper is doing a great deal for the country, and should be well supported. I therefore take this little step in what I think is the right direction, to further the interests of the paper, and trust those eight subscribers will shortly induce eight more to take it. I will make it a point to introduce the Advocate far and near, wherever I find it lacking in a family, and I hope to see it prosper and flourish like a green bay tree. Possibly we may hear, by this time next year, that you have received your just dues from the Government.

With best wishes I enclose you those eight names, hoping they will be the means of your getting a great many more,

I am, respectfully yours,

L. JONES.

Markham, May 2, 1870.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

Home Remarks.

BY I. F. INCH.

Now is the time for gardening, or rather ornamenting. Gardening should be all done now, but there are a great many things to do yet, There is that chip-yard to clean up. If it is left it will be an eye-sore all summer to all lovers of neatness. In your odd spare minutes take a spade and wheelbarrow and cart that rubbish away to the "fertilizer" heap.—Then fix up that fence around the garden and orchard. If it is only a zig-zag fence of cedar rails you can certainly make it look a little neater. Now there is a hinge off that gate; a couple of screws will mend it now, while, if you leave it, the cows may get in some night and eat off all the cabbage and break down the apple trees. Now, I see a lot of broken rails and pieces of useless lumber scattered about the yard and on the green. Some evening, after you have given up work for the day, start to and make a bonfire of them. You will soon see how the children will help you and how nice and clean the place will look after you are done. The grass will get a chance to grow. I have seen a great many places, and passed through pleasures and sorrows, and I now say that some of the happiest hours I ever spent were passed in helping father and the boys to make bonfires of the rubbish that collected every spring around our old log house.

Another thing I do want to say to the boys. Don't leave your mother and sister to cook and bake without wood to make a fire. It is very thoughtless in men and boys to go to work and come home to dinner without at least cutting one armful of fuel. Then, if dinner is a few minutes late, you pout and scold. Mind you, boys, the girls that come to visit your sisters take notice of all these little neglects on your parts; and I should not be the least surprised to hear of some of you being "jilted" by the girl you love, just all for the want of being kind to your mother. I know wherever I go I take particular notice to see who cuts wood, fetches the cows and carries a pail of water for their mothers; for I always think that an attentive son will make a good husband. I know you will think I am very hard on you, but do not "for pity's sake" smoke and chew tobacco in the best room. There is nothing in the world more disposed to put mother and sisters out of humor than having the carpet and newly-cleaned floor all messed and destroyed by the vile liquid called tobacco juice. Smoking and chewing destroy the brain and constitution.—But I won't trouble giving you a lecture on smoking. I do say "pity the carpets." Now forgive me boys if I did speak rather plain. I know we girls have a great many faults, too. I must go and wash dishes now—so good-bye for the present.

May, 1870.

—Josh Billings says that the mosquito was born of poor but honest parents, who had in their veins some of the best blood in the country.

Breeding Farm Horses and Roadsters.

I deem it a great misfortune that no incorporated company or society exists among us for the express purpose of breeding farm horses and roadsters, adapted to the wants of different sections of our country. If such could be formed, combining among its members the requisite capital, skill and taste to produce model stallions for the use of the farmer, I am confident, in a short time, it would pay large dividends on its stock, and do incalculable good. The breeders of racers and trotters have combined to some extent, and have placed a definite object before them, namely, speed—and this is sought in preference to everything else, although I am ready to acknowledge that in order to obtain the greatest speed, as a general rule, stoutness and endurance must be combined with it. But I will leave these points to be discussed by those interested in them.

The farmer ought to be as zealous and indefatigable in the following up his special requirements, as the breeder of trotters and racers, and it is in this way only that he will obtain the object of his wishes. Look at it now, and see what is going on throughout the country. One proposes a thoroughbred stallion—that is, a horse of purely racing blood and pedigree. Well, if he could be obtained of the form, substance, strength, endurance and kind disposition of our first imported Messenger, and a few other thoroughbreds which might be named, nothing probably would be better for the general purposes of the road and farm; but when a light-bodied, long-legged, ill-tempered horse is selected from the stud book, nothing could be worse for the farmer, no matter how speedy he may have proved himself on the race. On the other hand, I would ask, are the great, coarse, lathy, slow-moving European cart stallions suitable for the general purposes of the American farmer? Really they strike me as the opposite extreme to the fleet-footed, weedy racer, both alike, in my judgment, to be avoided, for the purpose of breeding strong, active road and farm horses.

The model road and farm horse should differ in size, bnt in no other respect, to suit the different sections of the United States. For a hilly country with a light stony or gravelly soil, a horse 15 to 15½ hands high, and weighing 1000 to 1100 lbs., would be about the right size; while for a more level country, and richer, heavier soil, he ought to be 16 to 16½ hands high, weighing 1200 to 1300 lbs.; an extreme might be 17 hands, with a weight of 1400 lbs. or a little over. I state these weights for animals in good working condition, and not fitted up for show, as fat as a bullock for slaughter.

The form of the roadster and farmer's horses should be a clean head, with fine ears, broad forehead, prominent eyes, dished face, and large open nostrils—a slightly curved neck, deep and moderately wide chest, short, strong back, broad, deep, muscular quarters, a handsome set of the tail, strong forehand, rather wide, flat, sinewy legs, short pasterns, heels well set up, and clear, open, horny hoof, sooner broad than contracted, with a kind, docile temper. This last point of good temper is often overlooked, but I deem it of great importance. A restive, shyey, kicking, biting, vicious brute is a positive nuisance on the farm or road, to say nothing of the danger of handling him in the stable, or working him outside of it. Be careful to breed from none such, or any that are least unsound. As for color, bay, with black legs, mane and tail, brown with tanned muzzle, and clear dappled grey, are preferred, while a black, a chestnut, a light sorrel and other colors have their admirers. This is a matter of considerable fancy, in which all may be indulged.

There are many horses already in our country which fill the above requisites, and I would suggest selections from these in preference to a resort to further importations. I think we too often overlook the good things we already possess, and go abroad at great risk and expense for what is seldom better, and frequently much worse.

There are two types of horses in America, whose points are so distinct and uniform that they may almost be called breeds; and yet they are scarcely ever mentioned by writers on the subject of horses; but I look upon them as worthy of high commendation—indeed, as almost perfect in their way. One is the Canadian pony, from 13¼ to 14½ hands high, stout built, with reasonable speed and of great endurance. For light farm and road work this horse can scarcely be excelled. The other passes under the general name of the Indian pony, and is found scattered from Nova Scotia to Mexico. He is finer in all his points than the Canadian, lighter-bodied and fleeter. He is more suitable for pony phætons, and boys' and ladies' riding, than for farm work, except on very light sandy soils. Both of the above breeds are extremely hardy, easily kept, and not to be surpassed in their way by any other breeds of horses. I wish the most perfect of each could be selected and bred distinct by itself. I have often seen fast trotters among the Canadians, and graceful amblers and gallopers among the Indians.

Many of the Pennsylvania heavy waggon horses might also pass for a distinct breed, and are excellent animals for the farm. Cross the mares with compact, dished face, clean-boned Norman stallions, and the progeny would be admirable for the farm and heavy road work.

In every enlightened country nearly of Europe, Asia and Africa, the governments have established breeding studs, in which stallions may be found suitable to the various wants of their subjects. Now I do not wish to see our government undertake to do the same, for it would be immediately turned into a swindling political job; but I do wish private associations, such as I have hinted at above, might be formed among us; and, above all, that farmers would make themselves perfect masters in advance of the proper object to be obtained—otherwise they will be imposed upon and cheated by every glib jockey that comes along.

A. B. ALLEN.

New York, March, 1870.

How to Produce Plums.

A Michigan fruit grower writes to the N. Y. Farmer's Club:—

"My remedy for the destroyers of this fruit is not one of my own discovery, but one practiced by several of my neighbors. Just across the street lives a man by the name of John P. Glover, who, this year and for a number of years past, has succeeded in raising several bushels of nice blue Damson plums, and he is not alone in this. Mr. Glover told me that he selected his grounds for his plum trees near his barn, planted them all together, surrounded them with a tall picket fence, and made his hen house in the enclosure. He kept from twenty to fifty hens. He also puts into this enclosure two pigs; the hens are fond of insects; there being only a few of other kinds, they gather and swallow eagerly all, or nearly all, the curculio; should any escape the hens and sting the fruit, the fruit falls, and the pigs being fond of plums, eat them at once. The plums I saw of his raising this season were free from stings, large, smooth, and delicious as they used to be thirty years ago, before the curculio was so destructive. The whole thing, from beginning to end, is most profitable. A plum orchard, a pig pen, and hen park all on a small piece of ground. The eggs, pork, and plums produced more money than could have been obtained had the ground and expense been applied to any other purpose."

Onions for Dropsy.

A correspondent of an English magazine, writing on the medicinal properties of the onion, tells how a Parisian lawyer cured a desperate case of dropsy as follows:—Having peeled a sufficient quantity of white onions, he filled with them a pepkin or coarse earthen mug, holding about three pints. Having put in as many onions as the vessel would contain, he filled this with cold water, covered it and set it in the midst of the warm embers, where the water would simmer with very little ebullition. He let the onions stew until they were reduced to a pap, and the water to half its original quantity—a process which required three or four hours, as the vessel was kept closely covered and the fire slow. He strained the liquor through a linen bag, carefully expressing every drop of juice from the pulp. Having extracted the liquor, he carefully weighed it, and then, gently over the fire, but without boiling, dissolved it in its own weight of coarse brown sugar. Of this syrup he gave his patient two tablespoonfuls every two hours, a fresh quantity being made, so as to keep up a constant supply. In a day or two the lady felt better, and in about six weeks, during which time we remained at the chateau as guests, she was able to walk with us about the grounds. We had occasion to visit our kind host about six months after our former visit, and found his lady enjoying excellent health, and valuing her cousin's excellent onion-syrup as a specific for all the complaints "that flesh is heir to."

Typhoid Fever.

During the past few years this fatal disease has spread alarmingly in many parts of the country, especially among the rural population, where hitherto it has been almost unknown.—This makes it a matter of no small importance to the farmer to ascertain the cause of the disease, and obtain a preventive if possible. It may be asked, "Why this in an agricultural paper? it has nothing to do with farming." With great difference to this opinion, I think the good health of the husbandman and his family has very much to do with farming.

There is no doubt that the barn-yard, when placed too close to the dwelling-house, "wasting its sweetness on the desert air," to use a poetic expression, is one cause of typhoid; but other things more surely and fatally contribute to it. First among these I would name the festering kitchen slops, thrown out promiscuously around the house or into an improperly prepared drain; and, second, and above all, perhaps, the common, loathsome privy. A substitute for the latter, and muck, turf, or fine mould, so placed as to receive and immediately absorb the issues from the former, would assuredly lessen, if they did not entirely put a stop to, typhoid and its kindred diseases.

Everybody knows how to make a drain, but everyone does not always think of the best manner of placing the muck, turf, or fine mould, to absorb its flowing contents. The easiest, and perhaps one of the best, plans for this is, to dig a hole of moderate breadth, and of two or three feet depth, around and under the mouth of the drain, and half fill this with the above absorbents, and the moment any effluvium begins to arise from it, spread on another layer a few inches thick, and so continue till the hole becomes full, or even a little heaping; and then remove the compost thus formed, and supply fresh muck, turf or fine mould again. In this way a drain might be kept sweet and healthy, even in the hottest weather, and a large amount, during the year, of highly fertilizing matter be saved and finely composted for the farm or garden.—*Corr. Country Gentleman.*

Different Ways of Keeping Bacon.

The *Country Gentleman* gives the following methods of preserving meat:—

Mix equal parts of slack lime and wood ashes, spread three inches of the mixture on the bottom of a box, then a layer of bacon; cover with lime and ashes, lay a few laths on, then a layer of bacon, and continue until the boxes are full. Set in a dry, cool place. All ashes will answer, if no lime near by. For a few pieces for a family, cover each piece of bacon or ham with paper, and pack in a salt barrel, with ashes between each piece, and fill the barrel up with ashes. The meat will be as good at the end of a year as when put in. It has been tried 30 years, and never failed.

Do not pack it down in anything, but take each piece and hang it in a loose bag; stuff the bag tight with cut hay, and your hams will keep sound and fresh for an indefinite time. I have hams two and three years old, perfectly sound, and retaining their juices, and they improve in quality like old wine.

If you will pack your hams, shoulders and dried beef, in barrels, and cover them with powdered charcoal, the meat will keep sweet, and will not be touched by flies, mice or rats.

Malt screenings will keep bacon better than bran.

THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.—A quaint writer takes the following view of the trades, arts, callings, and avocations of the animal kingdom:—"Bees are geometricians. The cells are so constructed, as, with the least quantity of materials, to have the largest sized spaces, and the least possible loss of interstice. The mole is a meteorologist. The bird called a ninekiller is an arithmetician; and also the crow, the wild turkey, and some other birds. The torpedo, the ray, and the electric eel, are electricians. The nautilas is a navigator. He rises and lowers his sail, casts and weighs anchor, and performs other nautical acts. Whole tribes of birds are musicians. The beaver is an architect, builder, and wood cutter. The marmot is a civil engineer. He does not only build houses, but constructs aqueducts and drains to keep them dry. The white ants maintain a regular army of soldiers. Wasps are paper manufacturers. Catterpillars are silk mercers.